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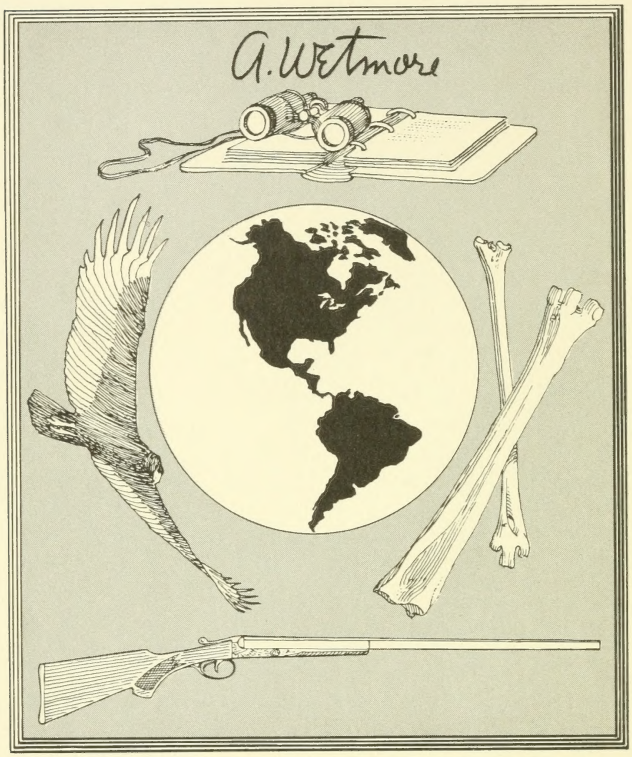

Alexander Wetmore

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A

CATALOGUE

OF THE

BIRDS OF NORFOLK.

BY

J. H. GURNEY, Jun.

Reprinted from MASON'S "HISTORY OF NORFOLK."

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SMITHSONIAN

A CATALOGUE OF THE BIRDS OF NORFOLK.

FROM comparatively early days, Norfolk has stood pre-eminently forward for its richness in Natural History, and at the present time it fully keeps up its character by possessing an avifauna more remarkable, in many ways, than any other county.[1] This it owes, in great measure, to its geographical position. The East Coast of England—and Norfolk in particular—witnesses, every autumn, the advent of a huge feathered host from Scandinavia.

This vast array is heralded by arrivals, in September, of redstarts, wheatears, pied flycatchers, little stints, pigmy curlews, common sandpipers, dunlins, etc., but when October sets in the greatest rush takes place. There is no more remarkable sight than the movement of birds

[1] The following species were first obtained in Norfolk, that is, before they were obtained in any other county :—

Black-bellied Dipper.
Savi's Warbler.
Wall Creeper.
Shorelark.
Roller.
Bee-eater.
Red-footed Falcon.
Pallas' Sandgrouse.
Pectoral Sandpiper.
Broad-billed Sandpiper.
(?) Eastern Golden Plover.
White-winged Tern.
Caspian Tern.
Capped Petrel.
Dusky Petrel.
Red-crested Pochard.
Buffle-headed Duck.
Steller's Duck.

which then presents itself to a discerning observer, especially when he remembers that for every bird he sees, two others at least come in the night.

Buzzards, and other birds of prey, soar aloft in circles, while the eye which knows her flight will catch the distant falcon, or more frequently, the kestrel. Short-eared owls, at other times solitary, are discovered in flocks of fifteen or twenty; and the gamekeeper, going his morning rounds, finds that long before he was up there had been an early arrival of jays and sparrow-hawks, and other noisy thieves, whose depredations, now that there are neither eggs nor young birds, are practically nothing at all, though mischievous enough in the summer.

Grey crows, jackdaws, and rooks dot the air for days together. Flocks of snow buntings, and various kinds of finches, appear in the fields nearest to the cliffs. Bramblings, twites, and siskins are heard of at our birdcatchers'. Skylarks come over literally in clouds, and, mingled with them, are regiments of starlings, flying onward with steady purpose. The popular woodcock, tired with his long voyage from Norway, halts to rest on the first land he comes to, which is generally sandhills and "marram"-grass, after his nocturnal journey. The northern thrushes appear, and I have often been perfectly amazed at the number of common thrushes in our turnip fields; but when November draws to a close the main rush is over, though a few flocks come dropping in afterwards.

It may be said, without any exaggeration, that every species of bird in Norfolk is migratory except pheasants, and partridges, and tame swans, which are parasites of man, and perhaps I may add, sparrows and green woodpeckers.

There is a very numerous class which I must not pass

over without mention—of which the skylark, thrush, golden-crested wren, blackbird, sparrowhawk, starling, jackdaw, wood pigeon, lapwing, snipe, and wild duck may be cited as examples—of which those which nest with us in summer are probably never the same individuals which are with us in the winter. These come under the class of migrants.

The general direction of this annual autumnal migration of birds is generally considered to be from east to west and south-west, but the trend of all autumn migration is south, and many of our migrants pursuing a southerly course over the North Sea, catch a glimpse of the projecting coast-line of Norfolk, with its lighthouses visible at night thirty miles out, and at once change the direction of their flight from south to west. It will be borne in mind that, even from the Naze in Norway, whence most of our hooded crows, woodcocks, redwings, and other migrants are supposed to come, the direction of flight would be S.S.W.

Migration is much affected by wind, and it has happened more than once that, with gales from the north and north-east, multitudes of dunlins, knots, sanderlings, and other waders—in fact, all the Grallatorial inhabitants of the shore at the time, have been seen following the line of the coast northwards at Yarmouth, and where it begins to curve round, at Blakeney, westwards; but these retrograde migrations, from local causes, do not affect the general line. What guides the feathered pilgrims—inherited knowledge, sight, or instinct?—is a question which has puzzled the wisest ornithological heads; but, strange as it may appear, the young birds, which may be supposed to know least about it, generally come first; while, from close observation, it appears that the proportion of young to old is as ten to one all through the three months of September,

October, and November, in nearly every species which comes to us from Scandinavia.

Although we owe so much to our geographical position, the importance of our celebrated sheets of water, called "Broads," must not be underrated, for these, though gradually becoming smaller, still afford a paradise for bearded tits, Garganey teal, great crested grebes, and black-headed gulls, and, until very recently, were the home of many ruffs, harriers, bitterns, Savi's warblers, black terns, etc., which the advance of the plough has nearly exterminated.

In the following Catalogue there are twelve species which are enclosed in brackets and indented. Four of them—the European coal titmouse, the Scandinavian rock pipit, Pallas' grey shrike, and the Danish barn owl—are considered by many ornithologists to be only continental races. One, the red grouse, has been introduced. The ortolan bunting, eagle owl,[1] and pelican, it is thought may have escaped from confinement; while the Eastern golden plover, Wilson's petrel, harlequin duck, and hooded merganser may not have been really killed in Norfolk.

Several other species, after a careful sifting of their claims, have been passed over, though one or two of them are alluded to in footnotes.

I have adopted an arrangement which has found favour with many ornithologists, and, in particular, has been, in a recent catalogue, adapted to British Birds, by Mr. H. T. Wharton—the late Prof. Sundevall's "Methodi Naturalis

[1] Mr. Edward Fountaine, of Easton, who has bred fifty-three eagle-owls, tells me that none have ever escaped from his cages. Two escaped from North Repps, where many have also been bred, but were very soon accounted for.

Avium Disponendarum Tentamen." Yet though the merits of his classification are great, it must be admitted that the juxtaposition of several birds of a somewhat opposite nature, such as the dipper and the Dartford warbler, is the result of applying it to a limited area.

NIGHTINGALE.[1]—A summer migrant; but not so common as in counties further south. At Cromer and Yarmouth comparatively rare. Said to be increasing about Beccles.

BLUETHROAT (*Ruticilla suecica:* Linn.). — Occurred at Yarmouth in September, 1841, at Cley in September, 1881, and again at Yarmouth and Cley in September, 1883. On the last occasion no less than nine were obtained at Cley by Mr. F. D. Power.

REDSTART.—A summer visitant. A great many young redstarts generally pass along the coast the first week in September; but in 1880 we had an unusual migration of them.

BLACK REDSTART.—An occasional visitant. In October, 1848, a female was killed at Yarmouth. In October, 1849, two more occurred, but in what part of the county is not remembered. In April, 1870, a male was shot at Hoveton. In May, 1872, a male was seen at Erpingham; and, in December, 1875, a male in change was killed at Cley.

REDBREAST.—Common all the year, receiving undoubted migratory additions in the autumn.

STONECHAT.—Common in furzy places—and, I think, about Cromer as much so in winter as in summer.

[1] The bulk of the numerous class of summer migrants, especially the *Sylviadæ*, leave us in September, at which season they are immediately followed by large numbers of others of the same species from Scandinavia and North Britain, passing Norfolk on their way to the Mediterranean.

Whinchat.—A summer visitant, fairly common, but somewhat local.

Wheatear.—Not common, at least not in East Norfolk, except at the periods of migration. Unknown in winter.

White's Thrush.—Has occurred once, in October, 1871, at Hickling.

Missel Thrush.—Common at all seasons, and a very early nester. Gregarious in autumn.

Song Thrush.—Universally spread over the county in the breeding season. The thrush receives a vast accession to its numbers in September and October. At that season our turnip fields swarm with migratory arrivals from Scandinavia; but in November most of them go south, though a good many remain in our woods until the first hard frost comes.

Redwing.—A winter visitant. Occasionally a stinging frost brings them in crowds, as in December, 1878, when these birds, and half-starved fieldfares, appeared at Cromer in extraordinary numbers.

Fieldfare.—The same remarks apply to the fieldfare, which is another winter visitant. At Cromer it is rather commoner than the redwing, but the reverse is the case near Norwich.

Blackbird.—Common in summer, vastly augmented in numbers in the autumn, and some remaining with us through the winter.

Ring Ouzel.—Mr. Stevenson[1] speaks of the ring ouzel as a regular spring and autumn migrant, occasionally

[1] "The Birds of Norfolk," by Henry Stevenson, vols. i. and ii. Any catalogue of the birds of Norfolk must of necessity for many years to come be under considerable obligations to this work, which, owing to the ill-health of the author, has not yet been completed. I shall have occasion to make a good many references to it, and also to the record of rare birds contributed annually by Mr. Stevenson to the

known to nest. A keeper at Gimingham, now dead, who knew something of birds, used to assert that it had bred there. In 1861 it is recorded to have nested at Ashwicken, near Lynn ("Field," Oct. 26th, 1876).

Dipper (*Cinclus aquaticus:* Bechst.).—I have seen a well-marked specimen of the common dipper, or water ouzel, in the collection of the Rev. C. J. Lucas, shot on Breydon Wall[1] in 1849. It has also occurred at Reedham and Hellesdon.

Black-bellied Dipper (*C. melanogaster:* C. L. Brehm).—An occasional visitant from Scandinavia. A pair in the Norwich Museum were obtained at Buxton Mills, in 1864 and 1869, by Mr. J. Gambling, who has since seen two more. The Bure here is rather rapid, but not deep.

Dartford Warbler.—Has only been recognised twice, as stated by Mr. Stevenson—both times at Yarmouth; but it is not unlikely that careful search on our commons would reveal others.

Wren.—Common all the year. A nest built in a currant-bush at Northrepps Hall, amid clusters of red fruit, was one of the prettiest sights I ever saw.

Golden-crested Wren.—Common at all seasons. Always receiving additions, and occasionally enormous additions, in the autumn.

"Zoologist" and the Norwich Naturalists' Society's "Transactions." The value of a systematic record, which in the case of Norfolk, has been kept up, almost without a break, from 1843 to the present time, is shown by the detail with which we are now able to speak of many of the rarer species.

[1] In referring to lists of Norfolk birds, it is as well to remember that, for ornithological purposes, Breydon and Yarmouth are practically the same, as are Hickling and Potter Heigham, and Blakeney and Cley.

Fire-crested Wren.—The only fire-crest recorded to have been actually obtained in Norfolk, was a young male, at Yarmouth, in November, 1843; but another was taken at sea.

Chiffchaff.—A summer visitant; but it cannot be very common, as I have never found its eggs, to my knowledge, though scores of those of the next species.

Willow Wren, or Willow Warbler.—A summer visitant. Very common indeed.

Wood Wren.—A summer visitant, but local, and comparatively rare.

Whitethroat.—A summer visitant. Very common. On its arrival, to be found in every hedgerow; and in August migrants reappear in the same places, before any of the other warblers.

Lesser Whitethroat.—A summer visitant, but much less common than the last. When a boy, I used to find a good many nests at Hethel and Braconash.

Garden Warbler.—A summer visitant, fairly common. A visitor to our raspberry nets.

Blackcap.—A summer visitant. Very fond of getting under raspberry nets, to eat the raspberries. I have frequently seen three or four so engaged.

Reed Warbler.[1]—A summer visitant to "broads," large ponds, and osier grounds by the side of rivers. Mr. Frank Norgate has found a nest, at Hickling, on fifteen reeds, but it is usually suspended on only four.

[1] If the marsh warbler, *Acrocephalus palustris* (Bechstein), be ultimately admitted to be distinct from the common reed warbler, it will be included in the Norfolk list. Three specimens were obtained by Mr. F. Bond from the neighbourhood of Yarmouth, in June, 1869, one of which through the kindness of that gentleman is now in my collection.

Sedge Warbler.—A summer visitant to many a pond, and pool, and reedy ditch.

Grasshopper Warbler.—A summer visitant, but not at all common anywhere. Its powers of concealment are very great.

Savi's Warbler.—Norfolk boasts of the first and the last Savi's warbler killed in England, yet only six have occurred, all in the "Broad" district, within a radius of about six miles. It is now, perhaps, extinct among us.

Great Titmouse.—Common everywhere. Yarrell states that the eggs are from six to nine in number, but I have known nests containing eleven, twelve, and even thirteen.

Blue Titmouse. "Pickcheese."[1]—Common; notorious for the strange situations it selects to nest in; also lays a great many eggs. I have had as many as eleven in one of my nest-boxes, and all hatched off.

Coal Titmouse. *Parus britannicus.*—Common resident. Less abundant than the marsh titmouse about Cromer, where I think it is far scarcer than it used to be.

[European Coal Titmouse. *P. ater.*—Whether or not this, the Scandinavian form of our common coal tit, be distinct, two or three specimens have occurred, and in like manner, the recognition in Norfolk of the Scandinavian forms of the marsh tit and long-tailed tit is probably only a question of time.]

Marsh Titmouse.—Tolerably common. I have often watched with amazement this diminutive bird carrying off in its bill the large grains of maize put down for fowls or pheasants; but from having found them dropped under bushes, believe that they only eat the softer part.

[1] My father is of opinion that it owes its provincial name of "Pickcheese" to its visits to the dairies in the days of the window-tax, when glass was not allowed, and perforated zinc had not yet taken the place of wooden splines.

Long-tailed Titmouse.—Resident. The young accompany their parents after they leave the nest.

[Pallas' Grey Shrike.—Whether this variety be ultimately considered a distinct species from the great grey shrike or not, it is entitled to a place in the Norfolk list, as a not infrequent visitor.]

Great Grey Shrike.—Occasional visitors at all seasons of the year except the summer, but more particularly occurring in the autumn.

Lesser Grey Shrike.—This rarity has occurred twice, both times at Yarmouth.

Red-backed Shrike. "Butcher Bird."—A summer migrant, not common. A pair or two generally nest near Cromer, impaling their prey, which consists principally of bumblebees, on the hedges; frogs, mice, moths, wasps, small birds, etc., may also be found.

Woodchat.—Has been supposed to have been killed four or five times, but I have reason to believe the beautiful male in my father's collection, shot at Yarmouth, in April, 1859, is the only veritable Norfolk specimen.[1]

Waxwing.—A rare winter visitant, but occasionally coming in large numbers. Was probably known as a Norfolk bird as far back as the reign of Charles II., from Sir Thomas Browne's reference to it in one of his letters to Merritt.[2]

Golden Oriole.—One of our rarest summer visitors. In 1850 it nested near Norwich. Mr. E. T. Booth, on whose authority this statement is made, saw the

[1] Another particularly fine male, shot by Mr. T. M. Spalding in Lord Stradbrooke's park at Henham, in Suffolk, came into my possession at the sale of Mr. Spalding's collection.

[2] Letters from Dr Browne to Dr. Merritt. [Wilkin's edition of Browne's works, vol. i., pp. 397-407.] Reference may also here be made to "An Account of Birds found in Norfolk," by Sir Thomas Browne, written about 1670. [Wilkin's edition, vol. iv., p. 313.]

nest, which was in a garden, and obtained an egg from it.[1] There is reason to suppose that it has also nested at Ormesby.

Pied Flycatcher.—A somewhat rare spring and autumn visitant, occasionally remaining to breed. I have once seen it in April, but the spring passage takes place in May.

Spotted Flycatcher.—A common summer visitant, though generally the last to arrive.

Pied Wagtail.—This is, at the same time, a resident and a migrant. Universally spread over the county in the breeding season, it is also to be found at times in the depth of winter.[2]

Grey Wagtail.—One of our scarcer spring and autumn migrants. Mr. Stevenson records several as killed in the severe winter of 1866-7.

Grey-headed Wagtail.—As a summer visitant has been shot in a few instances, but not very recently. A female, obtained by Mr. T. E. Gunn, at Stalham, on the 7th of May, 1873, is the last I have heard of.

Yellow Wagtail.—A summer migrant, appearing in April. Generally to be found in meadows.

Tree Pipit.—A summer migrant. Pretty common in the neighbourhood of trees, and will occasionally, though very rarely, perch on houses.

[1] "Catalogue of the Dyke Road Museum at Brighton," by E. T. Booth. I cannot help here alluding to Mr. Booth's magnificent collection at Brighton, containing many Norfolk rarities, which no naturalist visiting that place should fail to see.

[2] It is curious that the white wagtail has not yet been recognised in Norfolk. It is a bird which, in some plumages, is quite undistinguishable from the pied wagtail; but males in the spring have grey backs, and this grey is very pure, and is continued to the root of the tail, which it never is in the female pied wagtail, which has a grey back. The note is identical.

Meadow Pipit, or Titlark.—A common resident, receiving additions in autumn, yet not nearly so common as in less cultivated districts.

Rock Pipit.—The Rock Pipit is sometimes shot at Yarmouth, and is perhaps found in small numbers all along our coast, more especially from Weybourne to Lynn, in the spring and autumn. At Blakeney I have frequently seen it, and it may be found there even in December.

[Scandinavian Rock Pipit (*Anthus rupestris*).—A doubtfully distinct species; but whatever rank be finally assigned to it, it has occurred three times in Norfolk.]

Richard's Pipit.—Richard's Pipit has occurred six times, and, strange to say, five of them were killed by the same individual, the late Sergt. Barnes, P.C., of Yarmouth.

Bearded Titmouse.—The triangle of "broads" between Lowestoft, Norwich, and Stalham is the last breeding-place in Great Britain of the Bearded Titmouse, or "Reed Pheasant,"[1] as the frequenters of those watery wastes term it. Here, though far from common, the date of its extinction is probably distant.

Hedge Sparrow.—This familiar resident and general favourite is as common in Norfolk as it is everywhere else.

Bullfinch.—The bullfinch is rather common in some parts of the county, and is one of the few birds which it is pardonable to shoot in our kitchen-gardens.

Greenfinch.—Common everywhere. In June, 1879, I had a nest in my garden containing two white eggs and two suffused with brown. There was no mistake, as I saw the Greenfinch on them. They are generally thickly speckled.

[1] For a list of Norfolk provincial names of birds, see the "Zoologist" for 1878, pp. 287, 386.

Goldfinch.—Supposed to have been a much more abundant species long ago. It still breeds in some parts of the county.

Siskin.—A winter visitant, generally found near water, but occasionally a long way from it. On the coast we meet with it in the early part of the autumn migration.

Mealy Redpoll.—A winter visitant, but owing to its great similarity to the next species it is difficult to know whether it ought to be called very rare or not.

Lesser Redpoll.—A winter visitant, and at the same time a resident in small numbers.

Linnet.—Common, receiving migratory additions.

Twite.—I believe the twite is a regular winter visitant, but in some winters more numerous than others.

Hawfinch.—Much commoner, or more observed than formerly; at any rate in some seasons it is not at all a rare bird, as in 1873 and 1876. In 1873, Mr. Stevenson notes that no less than fifty-seven were shot.

Chaffinch. — The large flocks of chaffinches in our stubble-fields in autumn are familiar to every one, and there can be no doubt that, besides being a common resident, it receives at that season additions to its numbers. I have received wings from the Cockle floating-light off Yarmouth.

Brambling.—A winter visitant, but not very common according to my experience, though occasionally abundant. In October, 1883, I received two from Happisburg lighthouse, and one from the Cockle floating-light.

Tree Sparrow.—Not uncommon. Breeds round many of our "broads" in pollard ashes, willows, old boathouses, and cowsheds. I have heard of a large flock which settled on a ship off Yarmouth and remained with her a considerable time.

House Sparrow.—Common everywhere. I have seen sparrows eating pears, and also pear-tree leaves, also the seeds of the juniper. Those who like to have martins build under their eaves should kill down the sparrows.

Crossbill.—The crossbill is an uncertain visitant, and of late years (since 1868) it has been singularly scarce. It is said to have bred more than once, but the enquiries I have made into these reported instances have not been satisfactory.

Parrot Crossbill.[1]—Mr. Stevenson mentions a single occurrence at Riddlesworth, about forty years ago. No others have been detected since.

Bunting.—This bird, also known as the corn bunting or common bunting, is tolerably abundant, and certainly on the coast it is most so in March, when a migratory movement takes place.

Yellow Hammer.—Common everywhere. A good deal given to variations. I have one with an entirely yellow head,[2] another yellow all over but blotched with brown, another pure white.

Cirl Bunting.—A cirl bunting is said to have occurred somewhere [precise locality forgotten] in October, 1849, and an anonymous letter in the "Field" [signed L. R.] states that two were killed in December, 1855, somewhere on the beach [locality again not given], but from the description which follows, I think it doubtful if they were correctly identified. Yet it seems unlikely that the species should not occur.

[Ortolan Bunting.—In April, 1866, a somewhat dull-coloured ortolan was netted at Yarmouth, and in May, 1871, six more were netted there. It is not

[1] The pine grosbeak is included by previous writers among our occasional visitants. Some reasons for rejecting it are given in an article in the "Zoologist," 1877, p. 245.

[2] I have seen another with a yellow head, which was killed in Surrey. Comp. "Zoologist," 1876, p. 4874.

unlikely that the first was a wild bird, but the other six, if really captured as stated, had probably escaped.[1]]

Reed Bunting.—A resident on our "broads." I once shot one, in winter, near Norwich, about four miles from any marshy place, which I thought very unusual at the time.

Snow Bunting.—To be found in winter all along the coast, commonest at Yarmouth, Blakeney, and on the shores of the Wash.

Lapland Bunting.—Has occurred four times, all males, and three out of the four were taken alive in nets, the other being shot.

Red-winged Starling.—Has occurred once, on June 2nd, 1843, at Barton "Broad." This specimen is figured in Yarrell's "British Birds."

Starling.—No bird, except the skylark, oftener immolates itself against our lighthouses than the starling;[2] but there can be no doubt that this pert bird is on the increase, to the detriment of weaker species.

Rose-coloured Pastor.—The first rose pastor killed in Norfolk, and the second obtained in England, was shot, in 1847, at Rougham. Since then, about fifteen others have occurred, nearly all males, and mostly in August. It does not appear to have been got in the spring.

Nutcracker.—An inhabitant of Central Europe. One shot at Rollesby, October 30th, 1844; another taken off Yarmouth, October 7th, 1853.

Magpie.—Besides being resident in small numbers, migrants keep on dropping in, and in the woods about Cromer, Weybourne, and Holt, I have often seen two or three in a day.

[1] At the same time it is a common summer visitor to Belgium, distant only 100 miles.

[2] This was notably the case in October, 1871, and October, 1874.

Jay.—The jay is common still, receiving migratory additions in autumn, when our home-bred birds go south.

Jackdaw.—Very common, and migratory. In the autumn jackdaws come into our fields, and a flock of Rooks at that season seldom passes overhead but the familiar cry is heard among them.

Rook.—Modern agriculture suits the rook. If a census of rookeries could have been taken twenty-five years ago, and compared with another census now, it would probably be shown to have increased immensely as a resident. In autumn many come over the sea to us, but the bulk of them evidently pass on southwards and westwards.[1]

Raven.—Quite extinct, even as an accidental migrant. The last nests which I can hear of were at Shadwell and Ickburgh. At the former place, Mr. Newby, of Thetford, informs me they nested until about 1871; and at the latter, as I learn from Mr. Frank Norgate, until about 1866.

Carrion Crow.—As a summer migrant the carrion crow is still common on the larger "broads" and in certain localities between Dereham and Aylsham, and the observations of Prof. Newton prove that it sometimes comes as an autumn migrant. ("Zoologist," 1878, p. 49.)

Hooded Crow.—An abundant winter visitant, and occasionally seen near the coast in summer. I shot a young one, near Cromer, in August, 1877. The same, or another, had been seen, a few days before, to drive a woodpigeon from its nest and devour its eggs!

Tree Creeper.—A common resident. I have found a crevice between an old tree and its bark a favourite nesting-place. A more unusual one was a hole in a coal-cellar wall.

[1] It would be interesting to know where these migrants come from, as Norway and Sweden probably could not supply half of what appear.

Wall Creeper.—No bird is more fairly entitled to a place in the Norfolk list than this, though it was shot so long ago as October 30th, 1792, at Stratton Strawless.[1]

Nuthatch.—I should say the nuthatch was a commoner bird in Norfolk than in most parts of England, and to me its loud note in the spring is a very familiar sound.[2]

Swallow.—Common in summer.

Martin.—Common in summer.

Sand Martin.—Common in summer.

Shorelark.—The shorelark is now discovered to be not at all uncommon. It is a winter visitant, and is always found on the coast. I have known a flock, when not all shot, to remain in the same place for months.

Skylark.—A very common resident, and yet, at the same time, there is not a more essentially migratory bird. A misty night in October is sure to bring them to our lighthouses.

Woodlark.—Through the kindness of a friend, I have received specimens of this bird from Brandon. It is a summer visitant to a few localities in South-West Norfolk.

Greater Spotted Woodpecker.—A few nests of this handsome species are annually found, and sometimes we have a considerable arrival of migrants in autumn, as in 1866 and 1868.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker.—Found in small numbers. I have seen one which was picked up many years ago on the beach. I once shot one near Cromer, the only one I ever heard of there; it was on an oak tree, to

[1] Another is said to have been killed in Lancashire in May, 1872.

[2] For a very good account of the nidification of the nuthatch, in Norfolk, by Mr. Frank Norgate, see the "Zoologist" (1880, p. 41). Among the scores of nests I have examined, I have never seen one without mud at the entrance.

all appearances thriving, but there was probably decay going on, as in two years the tree died.

Green Woodpecker.—A fairly-common resident. Its old nest-holes abound in large woods, and fresh ones are discovered by the chips upon the ground. I have seen a nest as low as two feet nine inches from the ground, but the usual height is about fifteen feet.

Wryneck.—A summer migrant, pretty common. Its ordinary time of arrival is the beginning of April, but I believe I once heard one the beginning of March, though I will not be quite sure about it.

Cuckoo.—A summer visitant, not particularly common. At Cromer, I consider it almost a rarity.

Hoopoe.—An occasional migrant. Of late the hoopoe has become very rare, though it used not to be so.[1]

Roller.—Mr. Stevenson enumerates no less than fifteen occurrences of the roller, but it has not been seen for many years now.

Nightjar or Goatsucker.—A summer visitant. In eight days from the time of hatching the young can run, in thirteen the serrated claw appears, in fifteen they can "jar" in imitation of their parents, and in eighteen they can fly.

Swift.—A summer visitant. Like the nightjar this is one of the last to arrive, and, with the exception of the adult cuckoo, is the first to leave us.

Alpine Swift.—Two have been obtained, one at Old Buckenham, the other at Yarmouth, and two others are believed on good grounds to have been seen.

Bee-eater.—The first killed in England were two shot at Mattishall in 1793. Next, as regards Norfolk, is one shot at Yarmouth, which passed to a birdstuffer named

[1] Comp. "Zoologist," 1875, p. 4633.

Seaman. In 1829, one is stated to have been shot at Hockering (Stacey's "Hist. of Norf.," vol. ii., p. 1352). The Norwich Museum contains one shot in 1825 near Beccles. The late Mr. J. J. Gurney had one, killed near Yarmouth, which very likely is the same mentioned by Lubbock.[1] These, with a pair in Mr. Stevenson's collection, make eight Norfolk specimens actually obtained.

KINGFISHER.—Generally distributed, receiving migratory additions in September, in which month I have known twenty-three brought to a birdstuffer in a fortnight. More than one has killed itself against a floating light off our coast in September.

RING DOVE OR WOOD PIGEON.—A common resident, very subject to partial migrations near the coast.

STOCK DOVE.—Fairly common, but somewhat local. A nesting-place often chosen is a rabbit's hole, and Mr. Frank Norgate tells me he has found the eggs, which in all the pigeon tribe are two in number, deposited as far as seven feet from the entrance.

TURTLE DOVE.—The turtle dove, as a summer migrant, is becoming more and more common every year. It is fond of young plantations, and makes little attempt to conceal its flimsy nest, which is often within reach, though I have seen it as high as forty feet from the ground, and as low as three feet.

BARN OWL.—I occasionally see barn owls in the autumn at Cromer, and that they come to us from the Continent, at that season, I have not the slightest doubt. The following are the dates (months) of sixteen observed at various times, in one parish about a mile from the sea, the years being omitted :—

January	Two
February	One
March	One

[1] "Fauna of Norfolk." Ed. 1848, p. 38.

April	One
July	One
August	Three
September	Three
October	Two
November	One
December	One

[Danish Barn Owl.—Very dark barn owls, which have evidently flown over from Scandinavia, occasionally occur. I put these under a separate heading, but they appear to have received no distinctive scientific name.[1]]

Long-eared Owl.—A resident, commonest in the autumn, but a great many are trapped about Cromer in July.[2] I once brought away thirty-eight "pellets" from a long-eared owl's roost, and in every one, I believe, there was the lower part of a mouse's skull. A nest examined on another occasion contained only the remains of small birds. The harm this species does to game is greatly exaggerated.

Short-eared Owl.—Once a resident, then for many years an autumn visitant, now a resident again in very small numbers as well. A great many appeared in 1876.[3]

Tawny Owl.—A resident, now unfortunately getting rare. Two taken from a nest at Easton, in June, 1843, lived until 1868, one dying in June of that year, the other in December. Another taken out of a nest at Barton lived eighteen years.

[1] They have been known to occur in other parts of England, and I lately saw a fine example, which had been killed near Battle Abbey. The subject is treated at length by Mr. R. B. Sharpe in a paper "On the Geographical Distribution of Barn Owls." ("Ornithological Misc.," vol. i., p. 269.)

[2] See note on the kestrel's also occurring in July.

[3] This immigration extended as far as Durham, and to the island of Heligoland, at the mouth of the Elbe.

Tengmalm's Owl.—Has occurred three times. The last was caught at Cromer Lighthouse, October 30th, 1881. I happened to be on the hills, and obtained this rarity in the flesh, but not alive.[1]

Snowy Owl.—A rare and accidental visitant to our coast, usually choosing the neighbourhood of Cromer.

[Eagle Owl.—A fine specimen, formerly in the collection of Mr. J. Tomlinson, of Yarmouth, and obtained by him through Mr. George Watson, a game dealer, in 1863 or 1864, was stated to have been killed at Somerton, but it may possibly have escaped.]

Scops Owl.—Old writers on Norfolk Birds mention a few occurrences of the little scops, but the only example which has been obtained in the last fifty-six years is one in my collection, which was picked up in November, 1861, on the road which runs beneath the lighthouse at Cromer, having evidently come to grief against the lantern.

Little Owl.—A Little owl in my collection was taken on a fishing-smack, February 6th, 1862. About five others have occurred, but none of them have been entirely free from suspicion, as it is sometimes kept in confinement.

Sparrowhawk.—Fairly common, receiving migratory additions. In October, 1878, Mr. T. E. Gunn received one of the most beautiful males from Oxnead I ever saw, in the richness of its plumage resembling a variety figured in Mr. J. Hancock's "Birds of Northumberland and Durham."

Goshawk.—Only twelve appear to be on record, all immature but one. It is now an accidental winter migrant, supposed to have been long ago a resident.

[1] The following month one was obtained in Kent, and the month after one in Yorkshire.

Marsh Harrier.—About two pairs still nest in the "broad" district, and it is still no uncommon sight to see them searching the marshes for prey.[1]

Montagu's Harrier.—In June 1883, I was shown a nest of this species in a field of rushy grass, not fifty yards from a well-used waterway; the female sat very close, and I had an excellent view of her. It was formerly a regular nester, and is now, as a migrant, about as common as the hen harrier.

Hen Harrier.—I have not heard of any recent instance of the hen harrier's nesting in Norfolk, but it is not very uncommon as an autumn migrant.

Common Buzzard.—Has long ceased to breed with us, but as autumn migrants a great many come over. The Rev. C. J. Lucas, of Burgh, has a beautiful pied variety, a phase more usual in the honey buzzard than in this species, though rare in either.

Rough-legged Buzzard.—An autumn and winter visitant, occasionally quite abundant. The last "invasion" was in 1880, when I saw at least a score flying about, or dead.

Greenland Falcon.—A superb adult Greenland falcon, subsequently presented to the Norwich Museum by Mr. Charles Hoare, was shot near Cromer in February, 1848. Mr. Stevenson informs me, that there is one other Norfolk specimen at Saffron Walden, said to have been taken at Sandringham.[2]

Peregrine Falcon.—Anyone who has learned to distinguish the peregrine at a distance, will discover that it is not at all an uncommon hawk in Norfolk on passage.[3]

[1] They are, however, rapidly growing scarcer. I recently made a three days' expedition on the "Broads" without seeing a harrier of any kind.

[2] Catalogue of Saffron Walden Museum, p. 8.

[3] William Camden, in the reign of Elizabeth, speaks of the catching of hawks at Hunstanton, alluding doubtless to the peregrine, which ceased breeding there about 1821.

Merlin.—A rather common autumn visitant, occasionally taken in birdcatchers' nets. My father has had as many as three thus captured, which had pounced upon the call- or decoy-bird.

Hobby.—A summer visitant, not infrequently breeding.

Red-footed Falcon.—An accidental straggler; not known as a British bird until 1830, when no less than five were secured in Norfolk. A sixth occurred in 1843, and a seventh in 1868.

Kestrel. — Common, receiving migratory additions. Young pheasants are too often an attraction for them, and more are trapped by the keepers in July than at any other time.

Golden Eagle.—In November, 1868, a golden eagle was found by Mr. T. J. Mann, at Stiffkey, near the sea; it was unfortunately too much decomposed to be preserved, except both feet up to the tarsal joint, which was quite enough for identification.

White-tailed Eagle.—Young birds have repeatedly occurred in autumn and winter, but never an adult. My father has an eagle of this species, which was trapped at Beachamwell, and which lived in confinement thirty-six years.

Kite.—The kite, not so long ago a resident, is now a very accidental migrant. In 1815 we find Hunt[1] saying that scarcely anyone could be unacquainted with it; but in 1829 the same author speaks of it as having become extremely rare, and later authors repeat the tale. It probably nested in Norfolk until about 1830, or perhaps longer.

Honey Buzzard.—Has probably never been anything more than an autumn migrant, occasionally abundant.

[1] Hunt's works are the "British Ornithology," and a "List of the Birds of Norfolk," contributed to Stacey's "History of Norfolk," 1829, enumerating 226 species. He was a native of Norwich, and died in 1842, leaving his work incomplete.

Osprey.—A spring and autumn visitant, not very rare.

Pallas' Sand Grouse.—The advent of these Tartar sand grouse, in 1863, is one of the most extraordinary ornithological events on record, and attracted general notice in Norfolk, where more were obtained than in any other county.[1]

Black Grouse.—The black grouse, known as a Norfolk bird since the days of Sir Thomas Browne, now only exists on H.R.H. the Prince of Wales' estate at Sandringham, where although its numbers have been replenished by Scotch importations, it appears to be so rare, that, according to information kindly obtained for me by Mr. E. Beck, there are only about nine brace left.

[Red Grouse.—Sundry attempts have been made to introduce the Scotch grouse at Sandringham,[2] Elveden, Holt, and other places, but we have no extent of moor sufficient for them.]

Pheasant.—It is needless to say that the semi-domesticated pheasant abounds, with all its numerous varieties; and several estates might be named on which battue-shooting is carried to an extraordinary extent.

Red-legged Partridge.—It is just about a hundred years since the red-legged partridge was introduced. It is not so common as it used to be.

Partridge.—Very abundant. This species is a good example of how dependent birds are upon weather, too much rain sometimes killing the young by thousands. The largest bags of partridges on record have been made in Norfolk. The Maharajah Duleep Singh killed 780 birds to his own gun, in one day, on his estate near Thetford.

[1] A single specimen was shot early in July, 1859, at Walpole St. Peter, just within the boundaries of Norfolk.

[2] A correspondent of the "Norwich Mercury" of September 10th, 1881, says that of fourteen brace turned out at Sandringham in 1878, enough remained to propagate three broods in 1881.

Quail.—The quail may be defined as a spring and autumn visitant, sometimes breeding, but comparatively rare now. The last noticeable flight was in 1870.

Heron.—Our principal heronries are at Didlington, where, as Mr. H. M. Upcher has kindly informed me, there are seventy nests ; Gunton, where there are thirty-eight ; and Earlham, where there are twenty-five.[1] In more than one instance I have known a single nest of this usually gregarious species, and in other cases, as at Clippesby and Wheatacre, two or three pairs have remained a year or two, and then gone away.

Purple Heron.—Of late years has occurred seven times : once in July, twice in September, twice in October, once in November, and once in December.

Squacco Heron.—The rare squacco has occurred in a very few instances—four only—in the summer months.

Little Bittern.—As a very rare summer visitant, this species has occurred about fifteen times on our "broads"—Hickling and South Walsham being especially favoured. (Comp. "Birds of Norfolk," ii., p. 154.)

Bittern.—The bittern still occasionally "booms" and breeds on our "broads," and as a migrant is not uncommon in winter.

Night Heron.—Has occurred about a dozen times. The last was shot at Ranworth, July 21st, 1880, and subsequently presented to my father by Mr. S. G. Buxton.

Spoonbill.—Mr. Stevenson enumerates no less than forty-eight spoonbills, and more have been obtained since. It nested until 1882, in great numbers, as near to us as Horsteer Meer, in Holland, which is very little over a hundred miles away.[2]

[1] The colony at Mautby is reduced from 100 nests to 12.

[2] Comp. "The Ibis" (1877, p. 415, and 1880, p. 397).

White Stork.—As an accidental straggler has occurred more times in Norfolk than in any other part of England. Mr. Stevenson enumerates twenty-three.

Black Stork.—Has occurred twice, viz., at Westacre, May 19th, 1867, and at Breydon, June 27th, 1877.

Glossy Ibis.—Very rare, but Mr. Stevenson enumerates twelve specimens, and two have occurred since.

Curlew.—To be found at almost all seasons of the year along our coast, particularly where there are mud-flats, at low tide, to feed on, as at Blakeney. Never breeds in Norfolk.

Whimbrel.—Common at Blakeney, where I have often obtained them, and go by the name of "Maybird," from their arriving in that month.

Red-breasted Snipe.—This rare straggler from America has occurred three times, viz., in October, 1836, in October, 1841, and in October, 1845.

Bartailed Godwit.—A spring and autumn migrant to our shores. Commoner at Breydon than at Blakeney. I have obtained it in almost every plumage.

Black-tailed Godwit.—Has long ceased to breed in Norfolk, and now only occurs as a spring and autumn migrant. Mr. Stevenson puts the date of the last nest at about 1830. Lubbock, in a communication to Yarrell puts it rather later.[1]

Greenshank.—A spring and autumn migrant. In August, 1873, one was shot at Northrepps, by a small roadside pond—a remarkable locality for a shore-loving bird.

Spotted Redshank.—Young birds are not uncommon. Occasionally killed in the black breeding plumage. My father has one of the most perfect Norfolk specimens I ever saw. Another particularly fine one was killed in May, 1875.

[1] Yarrell's "British Birds," vol. ii., p. 563.

Redshank—Is still common, and an inland breeder. There are several good places for them on the coast, between Blakeney and Lynn.

Wood Sandpiper.—A spring and autumn migrant. A very juvenile example—in fact, not having half lost its down—was taken at Beachamwell about 1840. This was the first detected instance of its breeding in Great Britain.[1]

Green Sandpiper.—To be met with at all seasons of the year, and not very rare, yet, strange to say, its eggs have never been found.

Ruff—Is believed not to have nested in Norfolk since 1878. Young birds are pretty common in autumn, and old ones still revisit at least one of their former haunts every spring. Mr. W. M. Crowfoot has the last eggs taken in the Buckenham Ferry district.

Common Sandpiper.—Like most Norfolk ornithologists, I have occasionally seen this bird in summer, but it is really only a spring and autumn visitant, and never breeds with us.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper. — This accidental straggler from America has occurred in four well authenticated instances (Comp. "Birds of Norfolk," vol. ii., p. 358).

Sanderling.—Comes to us in the autumn, and sometimes in the spring. I have occasionally shot it at Blakeney, and once as early as 12th August; but it is not nearly so abundant as the dunlin.

Pectoral Sandpiper.—The first British specimen of this American species was killed at Yarmouth in 1830, since which three more have occurred (Comp. "Birds of Norfolk," vol. ii., p. 367.)

[1] But the first Wood Sandpipers' eggs were taken in 1853, simultaneously by Mr. C. Thurnall, in Scotland, and Mr. John Hancock, in Northumberland.

Temminck's Stint.—One of our rarer spring and autumn visitants; but there are few Norfolk collections which do not contain a specimen, and I have seen some in pretty fair breeding plumage.

Little Stint.—A spring and autumn visitant, commoner, and more of a shore bird than Temminck's stint, in fact, it has been occasionally almost abundant.

Purple Sandpiper.—Rather scarce, owing to the absence of rocks. Mr. Stevenson has noted its occurrence as far inland as Dereham.

Dunlin, or "Stint."—This is the common resident sandpiper of our harbours and mudflats, receiving vast additions in autumn, and never breeding with us.

Broad-billed Sandpiper.—A waif from Scandinavia, obtained for the first time in Britain at Yarmouth in 1836, since which two others have occurred at the same place (Comp. "Birds of Norfolk," vol. ii., p. 359).

Curlew Sandpiper, or Pigmy Curlew.—A shore bird, sometimes quite common in the autumn, and a few very fine ones used generally to be obtained in the spring,[1] and even in the height of summer, as on July 28th, 1880, when six of the most perfect birds I ever saw were sent up to one of our Norwich birdstuffers from Breydon.

Knot.—A common shore bird, appearing at the same time as all the other sandpipers, and while young birds are commonest, it used not to be difficult to get a series in every phase of plumage.

Woodcock.—A winter visitant, sometimes remaining to breed. I clip the following from a newspaper of 1807, which was before percussion caps came in:—"The woodcocks have already reached the Norfolk coast. On Friday and Saturday last, H. Henley, Esq.,

[1] *I.e.* Before legislation stopped their being shot at that time of the year.

and another gentleman, killed twenty-eight brace at Sandringham." In November, 1869, fifty-six brace and a half were killed at Hempstead and Bodham, in four, not quite consecutive, days; but these years of plenty are few and far between.

Great Snipe or Solitary Snipe.—The great snipe has been killed many times in Norfolk; indeed, Mr. Stevenson terms it a regular autumnal visitant. My father has a beautiful specimen, killed in the spring, at which season it is far rarer, at Barnby in Suffolk.

Common Snipe.—This resident, receiving vast migratory additions, is still common in spite of drainage, but I have noticed remarkably few the last year or two in Norwich Market, and most sportsmen complain of a falling off.

Jack Snipe.—Strictly a winter visitant, and never breeds here, though occasionally obtained as early as September.

Red-necked Phalarope.—From the number of instances on record, it would appear that this is no longer a very rare bird. It is a straggler to us, chiefly in the autumn.

Grey Phalarope.—An occasional winter visitant, but never occurring in great numbers, as it has been known to do on the south coast of England.

Black-winged Stilt.—Of this accidental straggler, we register no less than twelve examples actually obtained, all in the summer.

Avocet,—Since it ceased to breed at Salthouse, has be come a very rare summer visitant.

Turnstone.—A spring and autumn migrant. I have seen it in June at Blakeney, where I have obtained many in all states of plumage.

Lapwing or Pewit.—Still a common resident, subject to partial migrations, particularly near the coast.

Grey Plover.—A rather common spring and autumn migrant, to the mudflats at Lynn, Blakeney, and Breydon. My father kept one of these birds alive, in perfect health, about four years; it was taken in a net at Lynn.

Golden Plover.—A winter visitant, fairly common.

[Eastern Golden Plover.—In December, 1874, Mr. E. Bidwell detected an example of this Asiatic Plover in Leadenhall Market, said to have been sent up from Norfolk. It was exhibited at a meeting of the Norwich Naturalists' Society, July 25th, 1876.[1]]

Dotterel.—Passing "trips" still visit us in spring, and occasionally a few in the autumn, but at that season it is supposed to prefer a more easterly route, and speeds on without loitering.[2]

Ringed Plover or Ringed Dotterel.—A resident, receiving additions in autumn. The ringed plover breeds not only on the sea shore, but in small numbers on Thetford Warren, forty-five miles from the sea.

Kentish Plover.—A summer visitant, but rather rare. I have known it occur three times at Blakeney, and it has been often obtained at Yarmouth.

Oystercatcher.—Decidedly commonest on the shores of the Wash, the handsome oystercatcher has earned for

[1] Without wishing to throw doubt on this particular bird, I must say that my experience of London markets leads me to consider "localities" worth next to nothing from that quarter.

[2] As bearing on this point, it may be noticed that a great many passed the island of Heligoland, off the mouth of the Elbe, on August 22nd, 1882, and again on September 4th; but it also occurs there in spring, as Herr Gätke informed me.

itself the name of "Sea-pie," possibly from its resemblance to a magpie. In March, 1866, two were killed at Lakenheath, which had probably followed the course of the Ouse. ("Field" newspaper.)

NORFOLK PLOVER, OR STONE CURLEW. — One of the characteristic species of Norfolk. I have never seen one at Blakeney, yet in the adjoining parish of Kelling they are common, though seldom seen in the day-time unless disturbed.

COLLARED PRATINCOLE.—Of the rare pratincole, Mr. Stevenson gives four occurrences, and a fifth is said to have occurred ("Zoologist," 1869, p. 1,492).

GREAT BUSTARD.—Norfolk's departed glory! The last of these noble birds was killed at Lexham in May, 1838. My father saw it in the flesh. It was a female, and weighed 10 lbs. 10 ozs., which is as much as a turkey, and more than a capercailzie.[1] Old males weigh much more.

LITTLE BUSTARD.—A winter migrant. Mr. Stevenson records nine; two more have been shot since he wrote; and three very early occurrences are recorded in Terrington St. Clements, in the "Zoologist" (1875, p. 4,421).

CRANE.—Mr. Stevenson mentions three occurrences of the crane, but five others have been added since his work was published, of which the last, killed in 1873, is in Mr. Stevenson's collection.

WATER RAIL.—Fairly common, receiving migratory additions in the autumn.

CORN CRAKE, OR LAND RAIL.— A summer migrant. Some time ago one was taken in the engine-house of the N. Norfolk Railway at Yarmouth, and another, a short time before, in a barber's shop! I have had two slain by the telegraph.

[1] It would be difficult to add anything to, or to say too much in praise of, the elaborate and exhaustive account of this bird by Mr. Stevenson.

Spotted Crake.—Another summer migrant. Both this and the two preceding occur as migrants at Cromer, a circumstance made plain by their occasionally killing themselves against the telegraph wires!

Baillon's Crake.—A summer migrant of very rare occurrence. At the sale of Mr. Doubleday, at Epping, I bought two, stated to have been killed at Yarmouth. In 1866, eggs, which agreed better with Baillon's crake's than with the next species, were obtained from Heigham by Mr. G. Smith.

Little Crake.—A summer migrant, nearly as rare as Baillon's. A specimen, in my collection, which formerly belonged to Mr. Doubleday, was killed at Yarmouth.

Green-backed Porphyrio.—Has occurred once near Fakenham, and twice at Barton. It seems to be supposed by many people that these must have escaped, but I cannot see the slightest reason for any such supposition.[1]

Waterhen.—Generally distributed. Waterhens about Cromer often nest in woods for the sake of the maize and barley which is laid for pheasants, of which they get a great deal, as also do wood pigeons, grey crows, titmice, chaffinches, etc.

Coot.—Less abundant than formerly.

Whiskered Tern.—In June, 1847, a beautiful adult example was shot at Hickling, and is in my father's collection.

White-winged Tern.—A white-winged tern—the first in England—was killed at Horsey in May, 1853; another, in Mr. Stevenson's collection, was shot at Hickling, in

[1] According to Prof. Giglioli, it has been taken several times in Italy, and I found it common in the north of Egypt. Many birds with far less claim have been included in the British list.

June, 1867. In May, 1871, four were killed by Mr. E. T. Booth, at Breydon, and in May, 1873, the same fortunate gun bagged five, and saw several more at Hickling.[1] In June, 1883, two were seen at Barton, and one of them killed on the 10th at Hickling.

BLACK TERN.—Used to breed with us, inland, but is now a passing summer migrant, rather rare.

GULL-BILLED TERN.—Has occurred at Yarmouth eight times. The following are the dates:—April 14, July 31, September 1 (two), 1849; May 24, 1850; July, 1851; May 8 (two), 1878.

COMMON TERN.—A common summer visitant. The colony at Blakeney has increased since the passing of the several Bird Acts.

ARCTIC TERN.—A summer visitant. I have never felt sure whether any breed at Blakeney or not, but even as a migrant it is much rarer with us than the common tern, from which it may be distinguished at all ages by its short tarsus.

ROSEATE TERN.—One in Lord Lilford's collection was shot at Hunstanton by Mr. Hardy, July 10, 1880, and this appears to be the only authenticated specimen.[2]

SANDWICH TERN.—A summer migrant, or perhaps more correctly, a spring and autumn one, very far from common.

CASPIAN TERN.—This very rare summer visitant is believed to have occurred no less than nine times, but it is more than twenty years since the last was shot.[3]

[1] l. c., pp. 161, 163.

[2] A beautiful adult, in the collection of Mr. Robert Rising, of Horsey, was, I understand, not killed in Norfolk.

[3] Comp. Norwich Nat. Trans., vol. iii., p. 565.

Lesser Tern.—A summer migrant; the principal breeding-place is at Blakeney, where they are now very numerous. They arrive at the end of April, and have almost all left by September 1st, but Yarrell[1] states that one was offered in Norwich market in the third week in December.

Sabine's Gull.—Two young Sabine's gulls were shot on Breydon "Broad," in October 1881.

Kittiwake.—A common spring and autumn visitant, occasionally occurring in winter, and also in the height of summer, but we have no record of its having ever nested.

Black-headed Gull.—This is the only gull which nests in Norfolk; there is a large colony at Scoulton,[2] another at Hoveton, and a small one, I am told, existed for a short time at Barton, and Mr. A. H. Evans tells me there is sometimes a nest or two at Hickling.

Little Gull.—Quite an accidental visitant, though in 1870 we had an unprecedented migration of them. My father has one which was killed on a pond in Norwich, and I recently saw another which had followed the river up to Surlingham.[3]

Glaucous Gull.—Not uncommon in winter. On the 26th of January, 1881, Mr. G. Smith, of Yarmouth, had twenty-seven brought in by gunners and fishermen! I examined most of these birds; seven were mature, nineteen immature, and one in change.

Iceland Gull.—An accidental winter visitant, far rarer than the glaucous gull, in fact, Mr. Stevenson and I, after numerous enquiries, can only certify one undoubted specimen, viz., a young female, in the pos-

[1] "British Birds," vol. iii., p. 411.

[2] In the second volume of Rowley's "Ornithological Miscellany" are three beautiful plates by Keulemans, of Scoulton Mere, and its Gulls.

[3] They are inland breeders in their own home, which is Russia.

session of Mr. G. Smith, of Yarmouth, which was shot on Breydon "Broad" in November, 1874.[1]

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL.—Common, and at Cromer more so than the next species. I have had these birds brought me alive, which had been caught on the shore by lads, with rat traps, in very severe frost.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL.—Tolerably common at all seasons, especially in immature plumage.

HERRING GULL.—Common, especially in immature plumage. I know of a living example, said to be five years old, which still shows some barring on the tail, usually supposed to be confined to young birds.

COMMON GULL.—Common at all seasons of the year, but not so common as the black-headed, which I consider our commonest gull.[2]

GREAT SKUA.—Very rare. Several recorded by Mr Stevenson in 1857 and 1858. One seen at Cromer by Mr. Howard Saunders, July 15th, 1872, an unusual date.

POMATORHINE SKUA.—This species invariably occurs in October, and has long been known as not at all an uncommon bird on our coast, but the autumn of 1879 gave local collectors such a chance as they are never likely to have again.

RICHARDSON'S SKUA.—This bird is very often to be seen in autumn. At Blakeney it is not at all uncommon. I have had it from there as early as August.

BUFFON'S SKUA.—An autumn visitor, much scarcer than either of the preceding, but I have seen some magnificent adults.

[1] There seems to be every gradation of size between the Glaucous and Iceland Gulls, which will always lead to confusion about them.

[2] All the Gulls are reckoned good eating at Blakeney, and among the inhabitants there used to be, and I suppose still are, individuals who make a regular practice of shooting them for cooking!

Razorbill.—Common at sea. I have caught the young at Cromer, so very juvenile, that it could not have left its rocky ledge at Flamborough[1] many days.

Guillemot.[2]—Common at sea. In May, 1856, a great number were washed up at Cromer; I have often been told by a gamekeeper who saw them, of the singular appearance which the shore presented.

Black Guillemot.—In November, 1866, Mr. T. E. Gunn recognised in the breast and wings of a bird sent from Wells to be cut up for a lady's hat, an immature black guillemot. About five others are recorded to have been obtained, of which one was in adult plumage.

Little Auk.—This bird of the ocean is not infrequently blown inland. 1841, 1861, and 1880 were years in which it was numerous. I have two in summer plumage, obtained at Lynn and Blakeney.

Puffin.—The puffin is certainly not a common bird. I have occasionally found dead birds washed up, but have very rarely seen them at any of our bird-stuffers'.

Great Northern Diver.—A denizen of the deep, not at all uncommon in winter, but I have never seen one in breeding plumage.

Black-throated Diver.—A rarer bird than the great northern diver, but several have occurred, which had more than half-assumed breeding plumage. I may mention one such in the Rev. C. J. Lucas' collection, and another presented by my father to the Norwich Museum.

[1] The nearest breeding station.

[2] The Ringed Guillemot, which is one of the most curious varieties known among birds, having nothing analogous to it, has been shot twice at Cromer, and twice, at least, at Yarmouth. It is yet possible that it may prove to be a distinct species.

Red-throated Diver.—Is commoner than either of the preceding, and is, I believe, found at sea at all seasons of the year. These divers sometimes moult all their quill feathers at once, so as to be unable to fly for a short time.[1]

Great Crested Grebe.—This inhabitant of our "broads" is supposed to be increasing, but I have visited many of them and seen scarcely any. A good "broad" for them is Ranworth, in the month of March; by the month following they are gone, or in hiding, for there is a very marked annual passage in early spring. Five or six pairs breed on Wretham Meres, in the south-west of the county.

Red-necked Grebe.—Rarer than the last, and more marine. In February, 1865, Norfolk received such a visitation that Mr. Stevenson examined or heard of thirty-five, most of which were killed on the coast.[2]

Eared Grebe.—Rare. Mr. Stevenson enumerates no less than twenty-five specimens in full, or nearly full, breeding plumage, as against two obtained in the winter, but there is no reason to suppose they have ever nested here. (Comp. Dresser's "Birds of Europe," vol. viii., p. 651.)

Sclavonian Grebe.—By no means uncommon in winter, at which season I have more than once obtained it at Cromer. My father has one in breeding plumage, killed at Sutton, and another in change.

Little Grebe, or Dabchick.—Fairly common. In severe weather I have seen them very hard put to it, and at such times they are occasionally found on the shore. In December, 1846, some were picked up in our Norwich streets.

[1] Wild Geese and Waterhens sometimes do the same.

[2] Other counties shared in the migration.

Gannet, or Solan Goose.—Often to be seen passing along our coast, and after protracted storms I have found them washed ashore at Cromer, having perished for want of food.

[Pelican.—*Pelecanus onocrotalus* or *P. crispus.*—Sir Thomas Browne[1] makes two allusions to a pelican shot on Horsey Fen, May 22nd, 1663,[2] but he adds that about the same time one escaped from St. James';[3] but it may not have been the same.]

Cormorant.—The cormorant is not at all a common bird, but is sometimes to be seen on the coast, and is not infrequently obtained inland. I have one shot at Kimberley, and my father another, shot at Earlham.

Shag, or Crested Cormorant.—The shag, as might be expected, is very rare. Mr. T. W. Cremer has obtained two near Cromer, one immature, the other a fine adult.

Forked-tailed Petrel.—From a valuable list of occurrences communicated by Mr. Stevenson to Dresser's "Birds of Europe," it appears that the fork-tailed petrel has occurred in Norfolk about twenty times, and that the year 1867 produced seven specimens, one of which was in July.

[Wilson's Petrel.—My father has a Wilson's petrel, said to have been killed in Norfolk. Purchased

[1] l. c. vol. i., p. 397; vol. iv., p. 318.

[2] In 1856 Canon Tristram found one on the shore at Castle Eden, in Durham. It has also occurred at Lille, in the Pas-de-Calais (Flanders). I found it abundant in Egypt, and it is common in Greece. It was a native of Norfolk in the days of the Urus and the Irish Elk. I obtained a *humerus* at Feltwell some years ago semi-fossilized.

[3] We have two accounts of the Zoological Gardens in St. James's Park, one by Dr. Edward Browne, in which, under date of Feb. 25th, 1663, he makes no mention of Pelicans; and another by John Evelyn, who visited them on Feb. 9th, 1665, and saw one Pelican (Bray's Memoirs of Evelyn, i., p. 373), probably the identical specimen described in Willoughby's Ornithology (1678).

many years ago of a fishmonger and birdstuffer named Smith. Another is mentioned by Yarrell.[1] The history of both is extremely doubtful.]

Stormy Petrel.—The storm petrel, the least of web-footed birds, is sometimes blown on our shores in autumn; and usually contains small seed-like substances, supposed to be the air-vessels of some species of seaweed.

Capped Petrel.—In the spring of 1850, a capped petrel, the only British specimen on record, was caught on Southacre Heath.

Fulmar Petrel.—I have occasionally seen fulmars at our birdstuffers, which have generally been picked up, or shot, in November, and have been for the most part in an intermediate state of plumage; but it has occurred as early as August ("Zoologist," 1867, p. 4,773).

Dusky Petrel.—*Puffinus obscurus* (Gould). A dusky petrel, the only recorded British specimen, was found dead, on the 10th of April, 1858, at Earsham, near Bungay.[2]

Sooty Shearwater.—*Puffinus griseus* (Gould). A sooty shearwater was obtained near Lynn, on the 25th of July, 1851, and lived five days in the possession of Mr. Thomas Southwell.[3]

Manx Shearwater.—Has been observed off our coast a good many times, and I have seen four or five which were picked up inland, but it cannot be classed as a regular visitant, though known as a Norfolk bird since the days of Sir Thomas Browne.[4]

[1] "British Birds," iii., p. 517.

[2] Comp. Norwich Nat. Trans., vol. iii., p. 467.

[3] Comp. Norwich Nat. Trans., vol. iii., p. 474.

[4] Who, by way of an experiment, kept two, which had previously been starved some time by fishermen, for sixteen days without any food!! (l. c., iv., p. 316).

Grey-lag Goose.—The grey-lag goose, considered to have bred up to the close of the last century, is now only an occasional winter visitant, though I think it has been more plentiful the last year or two.

Bean Goose.—The bean goose is probably rarer than the pink-footed, but in some seasons the one species in common, and the other absolutely unrepresented.[1]

Pink-footed Goose.—Mr. Stevenson considers the pink-footed goose commonest on the western side of the county. I do not recollect to have seen any killed at Blakeney, but I have one from Ludham.

White-fronted Goose.—A winter visitant, not very common, but sometimes to be seen in Norwich Market.

Brent Goose.—A winter visitant, sometimes common, sometimes rare. After the protracted frost of 1870, a great many were shot at Blakeney and other harbours.

Bernicle Goose.—A winter visitant, but much rarer here than on the west coast of Great Britain. One in my collection was shot at Rockland, which I owe to the kindness of Mr. Stevenson.

Red-Breasted Goose.—As this is not an unlikely bird to occur, I think we may believe in an example stated to have been bought in Yarmouth Market in 1805, killed at Halvergate, close to Breydon "Broad," which has been a fatal attraction to so many a rare bird.

Egyptian Goose—Has repeatedly occurred, but this handsome goose is so often kept in confinement, that suspicion attaches to most of them.[2]

[1] Mr. E. T. Booth, who has had great experience on the east side of Norfolk, writes in the "Field" that he has always found the Bean Goose to be the most abundant ("Field," March 3rd, 1883).

[2] It is rather suggestive that in a country so much nearer to Egypt as Italy, where they are probably not often kept in confinement, and the avifauna of which has been well worked out, only one doubtful instance is on record. Comp. "The Ibis," 1881, p. 185. From what I saw of its habits in Egypt, it appeared to be a very sedentary species.

Mute or Tame Swan.[1]—Common enough in a domesticated state. Behind the Old Man's Hospital, at Norwich, there is a swan-pit well worth a visit, where quantities of swans are fattened in a small enclosure.

Whooper or Wild Swan.—A winter visitant. In the Siberian winter of 1870-1, I saw a great many whoopers in Leadenhall Market, and was assured by the salesmen that about a hundred had been received from Norfolk.

Bewick's Swan.—A good deal rarer than the whooper. In February, 1880, I obtained two superb specimens near Holt; one I shot and the other struck its head against a tree in the act of rising, and was so much injured that I caught it alive.

Shelduck.—The shelduck, called "burrow duck," from its habit of nesting in rabbit burrows, is a resident, but now scarce. In its first plumage it has a white face.

Wigeon.—A common winter visitant, the wigeon has been occasionally noticed during the summer months on our inland waters, which has led to the belief that they have nested here, as at Surlingham, in 1873, at Narford, in 1877, and somewhere else in 1875, and eggs, supposed to have been wigeon's eggs, have been once or twice found.

Garganey.—A summer visitant, probably on the increase, breeding freely on several of our "broads." My father has a white garganey shot at Surlingham, one of the purest and most beautiful varieties I ever saw.

Teal.—A resident, receiving large migratory additions in winter. In the time of Sir Thomas Browne (l.c.) we learn that they were extraordinarily abundant, in part owing to the many decoys. It is said that a thousand

[1] The Polish Swan is omitted, as not a good species in the writer's opinion, though many Naturalists hold it to be so.

were taken in the decoy at Hempstead, near Holt, in 1835. Comp. "Decoys," by T. Southwell. (Norw. Nat. Trans., ii., p. 546.)

PINTAIL—May probably have bred here formerly,[1] but is now a winter visitant, not at all common. It is sometimes taken at Ranworth, Westwick, and Breydon, and formerly at Hempstead before the decoy was closed there.

WILD DUCK.—Breeds, but receives large migratory additions in winter. The number of ducks now taken at Westwick decoy is very small, and I believe the same may be said of Southacre and Didlington; but a good many are taken at Wretham.

GADWALL.—Originally introduced, this bird is now well-established, on at least two estates in West Norfolk. I have seen examples which have been killed on Breydon "Broad," as well as higher up the Yare, and as the bird is not uncommon in Holland, these may have flown over.

SHOVELLER.—In June, 1882, Mr. H. Stevenson, Mr. T. Southwell and I visited the Wretham meres, where we found this species breeding. I have also seen it in summer on Hoveton "Broad." It has occasionally occurred on the coast in the depth of winter.

POCHARD.—On the same visit we saw at least six fleets of young pochards, following their parents at Wretham. It is a tolerably common duck in winter.[2]

RED-CRESTED POCHARD.—The credit of adding this duck to the British lists, belongs to a Norfolk naturalist—Hunt—who figures a female obtained at Yarmouth in July, 1848, and adds that there was another Norfolk

[1] Hunt mentions several specimens in Norwich market in the months of June and July (l. c., ii., 293), which indicates breeding.

[2] The fact of its breeding with us was first clearly established by Mr. Stevenson in 1875, though it had long been surmised.

specimen in the "London Museum" (l.c., ii., p. 333). Two more were shot at Yarmouth, in 1826, and a male in change (now in my father's collection) was shot at Surlingham, in December, 1827, by a Mr. Deen. In January, 1844, a male was shot at Horsey, and in December, 1867, a female at Hickling. A male, killed many years ago at Yarmouth, is in the possession of Mr. William Borrer.

Ferruginous or White-eyed Duck—Is something more than an accidental straggler, having occurred a good many times. One of the best I have seen was shot at Salthouse.

Tufted Duck.—Not uncommon as a winter visitant, this species of duck, long suspected to have bred in Norfolk, was not proved to do so, until the discovery by Lord Walsingham of a nest and eggs at Stanford, in 1867. That it now does so abundantly, in certain localities, is evident from the fact that a party of naturalists, of whom I was one, were able to count, on one day in June, 1882, at least three young broods on one mere in West Norfolk, and two broods on another.

Scaup.—Not infrequent, but more of a sea duck than those hitherto named, though I have seen it on Ranworth "Broad," and known it killed on the river at Horstead. In the winter of 1829-30, there appears to have been a mortality of scaups; according to an old note seventy were caught at Cromer.[1]

Scoter.—Though generally considered a winter bird, its occurrence in summer has been repeatedly noted by Mr. Stevenson. Its spring passage north is much prolonged, while its return journey sometimes commences in July.

[1] A similar occurrence is recorded to have taken place on the coast of Durham in 1788, by Sir Cuthbert Sharp, the historian of Hartlepool.

Velvet Scoter.—As exclusively a sea duck as the last,[1] but not nearly so common. A Lincolnshire naturalist says it is much rarer north of the Wash.

[Harlequin Duck.—This is a very doubtful Norfolk bird; there is, however, a specimen in the Norwich Museum, presented in 1839, and entered in the donation-book as killed at Yarmouth.]

Golden Eye.—A rather favourite place for golden-eyes is the backwater at Cley beach, where they may easily be approached under cover of the sea-wall. Young ones are common, and I have known them shot inland, but fine old drakes are never seen before Christmas, and are considered rare.

Buffle-headed Duck.—An adult male, the first killed in England, was shot at Yarmouth in 1830, and is in the possession of Mr. Robert Rising.[2]

Long-tailed Duck.—Young birds are not uncommon and I have known several killed at Blakeney. The Rev. S. Micklethwaite has in his collection a long-tailed duck, shot on Hickling "Broad" in the spring, in full breeding plumage.[3]

Steller's Duck.—A magnificent male was shot near Yarmouth, in 1830, the same severe winter which produced the buffle-headed duck, and the hooded merganser (?), and in July of the following year was presented to the

[1] As an exception to the general rule may be mentioned a fine old drake in my father's collection, obtained at Costessey, on the Wensum, 16½ miles from the sea.

[2] Two others must not be passed over without mention, though there is little doubt there was some mistake in identification. One is recorded by the Rev. F. O. Morris ("Brit. Birds," vol. v., p. 268), and the other by Mr. J. E. Gray ("Brit. Animals in British Museum," pt. iii., p. 226).

[3] It has also been obtained in breeding plumage at Aldeburgh in Suffolk ("Zoologist," 1872, p. 3,306), but in this state must be considered exceedingly rare.

Norwich Museum, by the Rev. George Steward, with a Caspian tern, and some other rarities.

EIDER DUCK.—Occasionally appears on our coast. Mr. Stevenson records one, shot in 1864, on Hickling "Broad," where a good many sea-ducks have, at one time or another, been killed.

SMEW.—A winter visitant, rare in adult, not very uncommon in immature plumage. Several killed in 1838.

GOOSANDER.—A winter visitant, frequently occurring on inland waters. Also plentiful in 1838, when adult males were killed at Heigham and Costessey.

MERGANSER.—A winter visitant; more of a marine bird than the goosander, and not so common.

[HOODED MERGANSER.— Reasons for excluding Selby's Hooded Merganser, said to have been killed at Yarmouth, are given in the "Norwich Naturalist Transactions" (vol. ii., p. 408). But Norfolk has another claim upon this species, for Hoy's specimen, recorded by Yarrell, is stated to have been Norfolk-killed. (*Vide* the continuation of Maund and Holl's "Naturalist," vol. iii., p. 413.)[1]]

[1] The number of species given in the above catalogue, omitting all the doubtful ones, is 285. The opinion expressed as to the migratory habits of the Redbreast, has been confirmed by the capture of two, with a Wren, a Goldcrest, a Kestrel, and a Snow Bunting, on October 17th, on one of our light vessels, six miles from the shore.

A CATALOGUE OF THE BIRDS OF NORFOLK.

ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS.

Page 5.—Erase lines 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, to "west," and substitute the following :—"When a westerly direction is pursued, it is because the migrating bird has to fly against the west wind, which is sometimes very prevalent in autumn."

P. 6, line 2.—*Add*: "and males preponderate."

P. 7. Bluethroat.—In September 1884, Messrs. F. D. and G. Power met with about 80 at Cley and Blakeney. Specimens shot appear all to belong to the red-spotted *Ruticilla suecica*, though of some, which are in immature plumage, it is impossible to speak with certainty. A series of them were exhibited by Mr. T. E. Gunn at a meeting of the Linnean Society, Dec. 18, 1884.

P. 9, line 5.—*For* 1876 *read* 1867.

P. 10. Fire-crested Wren.—Mr. Gunn received in the flesh a male Firecrest from Attlebridge, November 29, 1879, which I did not know of when writing the Catalogue ('Zoologist,' 1885, p. 53).

P. 12, line 35.—*For* 1670 *read* 1663.

P. 13, line 14.—Erase the words "scarcer spring and." The Grey Wagtail, though decidedly rare in the "Broad" district and about Cromer, is commoner in some parts of Norfolk, particularly near Norwich, where Mr. Gunn informs me he has seen five or six in a day, on the river, in the autumn.

P. 16. Crossbill.—Doubts having been expressed as to the breeding of the Crossbill, which was reported to have nested more than once near Brandon, it is satisfactory to be able to say that its doing so at Santon Downham, just over the border of Norfolk, has been fully proved this spring (1885) by Mr. F. Norgate.

P. 16. Cirl Bunting.—Mr. E. T. Booth tells me he obtained two females at Hickling in the autumn of 1875.

P. 16. Ortolan.—An Ortolan in a very immature state of plumage was shot at Blakeney by Mr. Power, September 12, 1884. This is the first authentic occurrence of the Ortolan in Norfolk, as previous specimens may have escaped.

P. 17, line 23.—*For* 1847 *read* 1747.

P. 35. Roseate Tern.—*For* "Mr. Hardy" *read* "Mr. G. E. Hunt."

P. 37. Iceland Gull.—Mr. G. Smith tells me that the Iceland Gull here mentioned was not shot on Breydon "broad," but in the adjoining parish of Caister.

P. 40. Pelican.—It may be worth mentioning that Sir Thomas Browne's MS. in the British Museum has been examined with a view of finding out something further about the occurrence of the Pelican at Horsey, but nothing was elicited. The account is word for word as given in Simon Wilkin's edition, in both passages. I am glad to say that this valuable MS. is in excellent preservation.

P. 41, line 15.—*For* 1867 *read* 1876.

P. 45, line 17.—*For* 1867 *read* 1876.

Barred Warbler (*Sylvia nisoria*, Naum.).—This interesting addition to the avifauna of Norfolk was shot by Mr. F. D. Power at Blakeney, September 4, 1884.

Icterine Warbler (*Hypolais icterina*, Vieill.).—This addition was also obtained by Mr. F. D. Power at Blakeney, September 11, 1884. Full particulars of both these birds are given in the Norwich Naturalists' Society's 'Transactions' (vol. iv. p. 36 *et seq.*), as well as of the Bluethroats.

Serin Finch (*Serinus hortulanus*, Koch).—Mr. G. Smith informs me that a very good male Serin was shot in a garden on the outskirts of Yarmouth, on June 13, 1885, which is now in the collection of Mr. R. W. Chase, of Birmingham. The Serin has not occurred in Norfolk before.

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